

IV. The Fire Situation

A. General Description

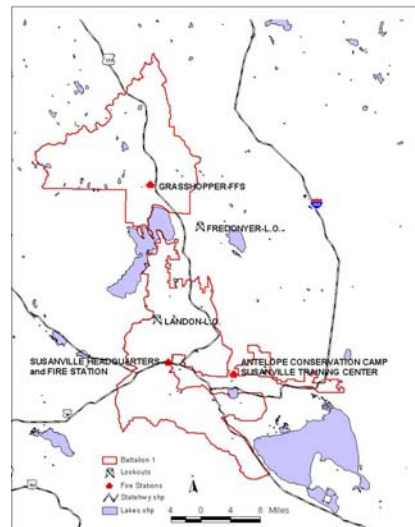
The Lassen Modoc Unit has a strong cooperative relationship with federal and local government firefighting agencies in addition to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. This cooperation is formally defined and authorized in interagency agreements. This includes the four-party agreement with the federal agencies, and the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, with local government. Mutual aid agreements and cooperative agreements with all fire departments and fire protection districts are also in place within the Unit. The cooperative efforts of fire service providers comprise the entire fire protection delivery system within the Unit.



BATTALION 1

Battalion 1 (Susanville Battalion) is located in the central and southeastern portion of Lassen County, with the communities of Susanville, Johnstonville, Janesville, Standish, Litchfield, Lake Forest Estates, Stones Landing and Spaulding. The City of Susanville is an incorporated City, which is in the center of the Battalion.

U. S. Highway 395 travels through the Battalion on its east side. State Highways 44, 139 and 36 also travel through the Battalion and intersect with U.S. 395. The elevation of the Battalion is approximately 4500' in the Honey Lake Valley to 7700' on Diamond Mountain, with an average elevation of approximately 5800' on the northeastern plateau of California.



Approximately 32,000 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Lands; the only Local Responsibility Land is located within the Honey Lake Valley area, in Susanville City, and portions of the communities of Standish, Janesville and Johnstonville. The highest housing and population concentration in the Unit is located in Battalion 1.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

Fuels

The vegetative cover in Battalion 1 is comprised of standing timber on the west and northwest sides of the Battalion and high desert sage, bitterbrush and juniper on the mid and east side of the Battalion. Most of the large fires in Lassen Modoc Unit over the years have occurred in Battalion 1 in the timbered areas.

Fire Weather

Fire weather in Battalion 1 can be extreme because of its location and elevation. Most of the 32,000 acres are in a very dry climate due to being in the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada/Cascade Range. The rainfall for 2004, Susanville Station had 14.52 with an average of 16.5. No report for Grasshopper Station due to closure during the winter. Single digit relative humidity during the summer months is not uncommon and many of the forest fuels remain ready to burn in the late spring – early summer, prior to the finer fuels drying.

Battalion 1 Resources

Susanville Station

2- Fire Engines
1- Bull Dozer
1- Reserve Fire Engine
Landon Lookout

Grasshopper Station

2 – Fire Engines

Fredonyer Lookout

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments include:

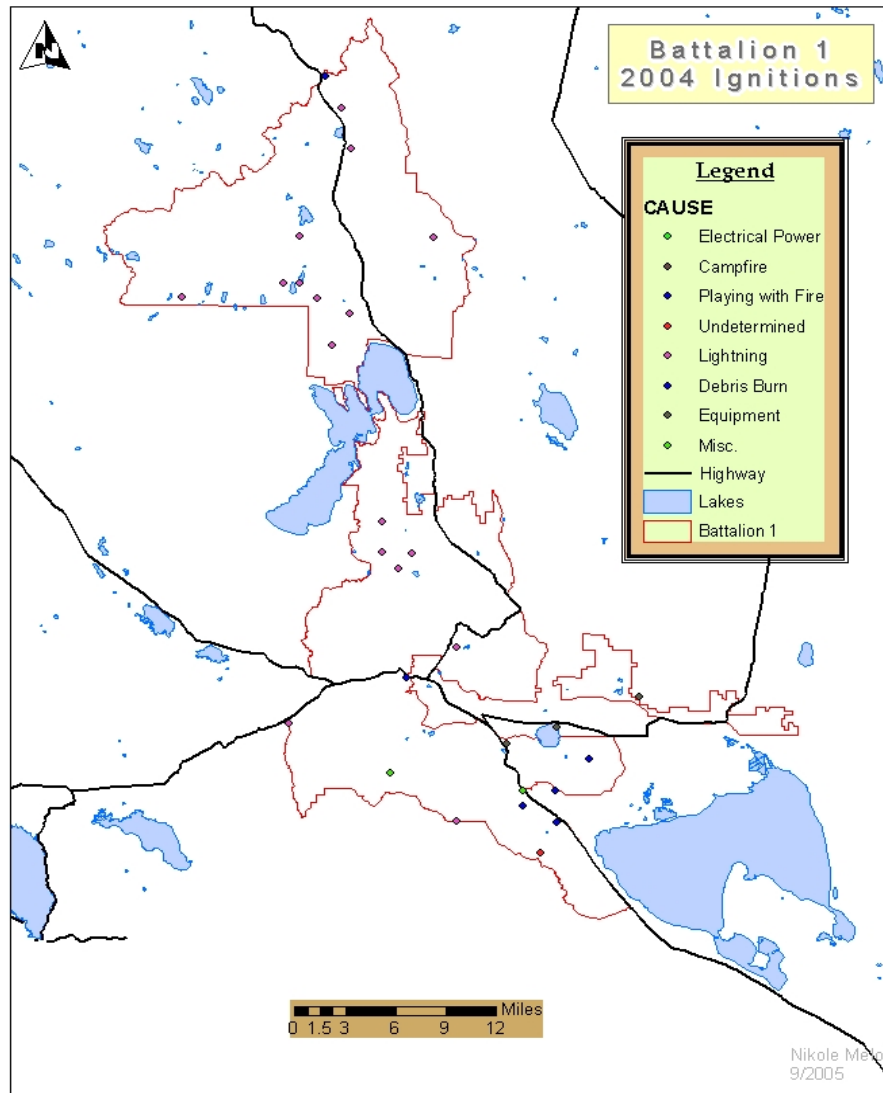
- California Correctional Center
- Susanville City Fire Department
- Susan River Fire Protection District
- Janesville Fire Protection District
- Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District
- Doyle Fire Protection District
- Eagle Lake Fire Protection District
- Stones-Bengard Fire Protection District
- Lake Forest Fire Protection District
- Milford Fire Protection District
- Sierra Army Depot Fire Department
- Ravendale Volunteer Fire Department

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

Ignitions

There were 57 known ignitions in Battalion 1 in 2004. The largest cause of these fires was lightning for a total of 17 fires. The following is a break down of the ignitions within the Battalion:



FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005
Lassen – Modoc Unit

UNDETERMINED	15
LIGHTNING	17
DEBRIS BURN	15
EQUIPMENT USE	2
CAMPFIRE	3
ELECTRIC POWER	2
PLAYING WITH FIRE	1
MISCELLANEOUS	2

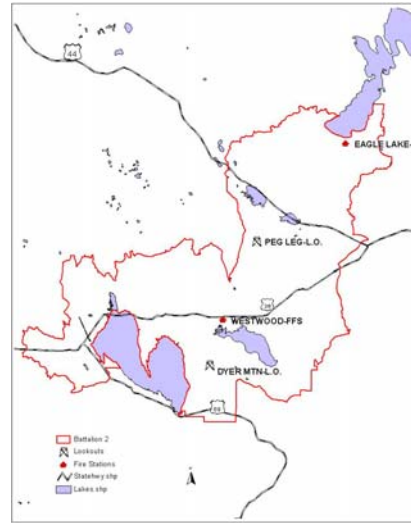
FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

BATTALION 2

Battalion 2 (Westwood Battalion) is located on the west side of Lassen County and includes the Almanor Basin, in Plumas County. The communities of Westwood, Pinetown, Clear Creek, Hamilton Branch, Canyon Dam, Prattville, Almanor West and Chester are all within this Battalion. State Highways 36, 147, 89 and 44 traverse through Battalion 2.

In Battalion 2 approximately 13,000 acres are State Responsibility Lands; Local Responsibility Land is located in the town of Chester and the community of Westwood. The population is concentrated in Westwood and all around the Lake Almanor Basin. Approximately 3600 people make the communities of Battalion 2 their home.



Fuels

The vegetative cover in Battalion 2 is predominately standing timber, with grass and sage cover.

Fire Weather

Fire weather in Battalion 2 is wetter than that of Battalions 1 and 4, which are both located on the eastern slopes of the Sierra/Cascade mountain range. During 2004, Westwood received 31.01 inches of rain for an average rainfall of 25.

Battalion 2 Resources

Westwood Station

2- Fire Engines
Peg Leg Lookout
Dyer Mountain. Lookout

Eagle Lake Station

1 – Fire Engine

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments include:

Westwood Community Services District and Volunteer Fire Department
Chester Fire Department
Almanor West Fire Department

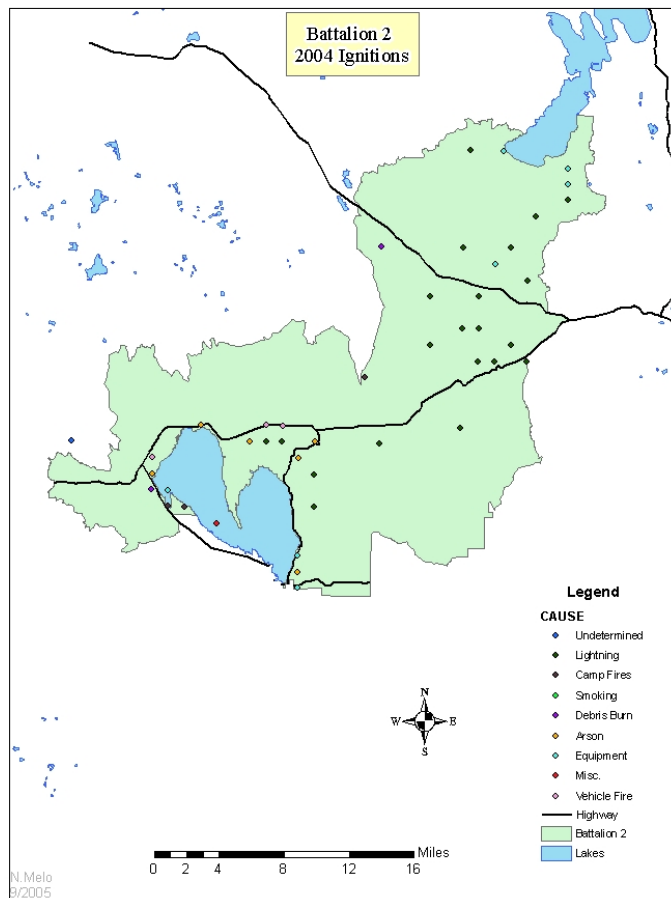
FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

Hamilton Branch Fire Department
Clear Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Prattville Fire Protection District
Peninsula Fire Protection District

Ignitions

In 2004, Battalion 2 had a total of 58 ignitions, which resulted in fires. The leading cause of these fires was lightning for a total of 25 fires. The following is a break down of the ignitions within the Battalion:



FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

UNDETERMINED	9
LIGHTNING	25
CAMP FIRE	4
SMOKING	1
DEBRIS BURN	6
ARSON	7
EQUIPMENT	3
VEHICLE	2 NOT SHOWN
PLAYING WITH FIRE	1
VEHICLE	3

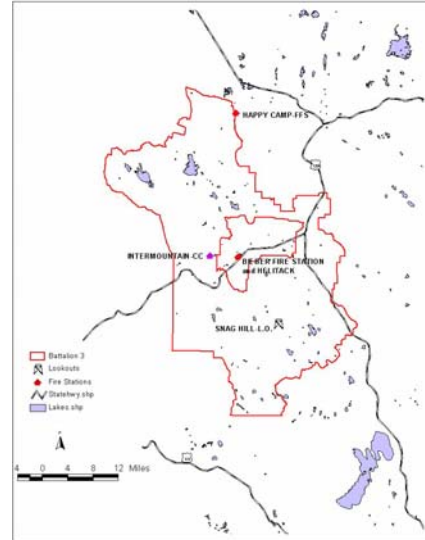
FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

BATTALION 3

Battalion 3 (Bieber Battalion) is located in the northwest portion of Lassen County, southwest corner of Modoc County and borders to the west along Shasta – Trinity and Siskiyou Units. The communities of Bieber, Nubieber, Day, Lookout, Little Valley and Adin are located within its boundaries.

State Highway 299 and 139 traverse the Battalion. Approximately 17,260 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Lands; Local Responsibility Land is located in the Big Valley area around the towns of Bieber, Nubieber and in the Pittville. The population within the Battalion is found in Bieber, Nubieber, Lookout, Day, Little Valley and Adin. Approximately 1400 people make the communities of Battalion 3 their home.



Fuels

The vegetative cover in the Battalion 3 is predominately standing timber with grass/sage cover. The Big Valley area of the Battalion is agricultural with much of the land committed to the production of hay. Many fires in this Battalion grow quite quickly, due to its remoteness of and the lack of roads.

Fire Weather

Fire weather in Battalion 3 is wetter than that of Battalions 1 and 4, which are located in the rain shadow of the Sierra/Cascade Mountains. The precipitation total for 2004 was 13.29 inches. The average was 14.71 inches.

Battalion 3 Resources

Bieber Station

2- Fire Engines
1- Helicopter and crew
Snag Hill Lookout

Happy Camp Station

1 – Fire Engine

Intermountain Conservation Camp is located just outside of Nubieber and has 4 Fire Crews, one Dozer and one Camp Fire Protection Engine.

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments include:

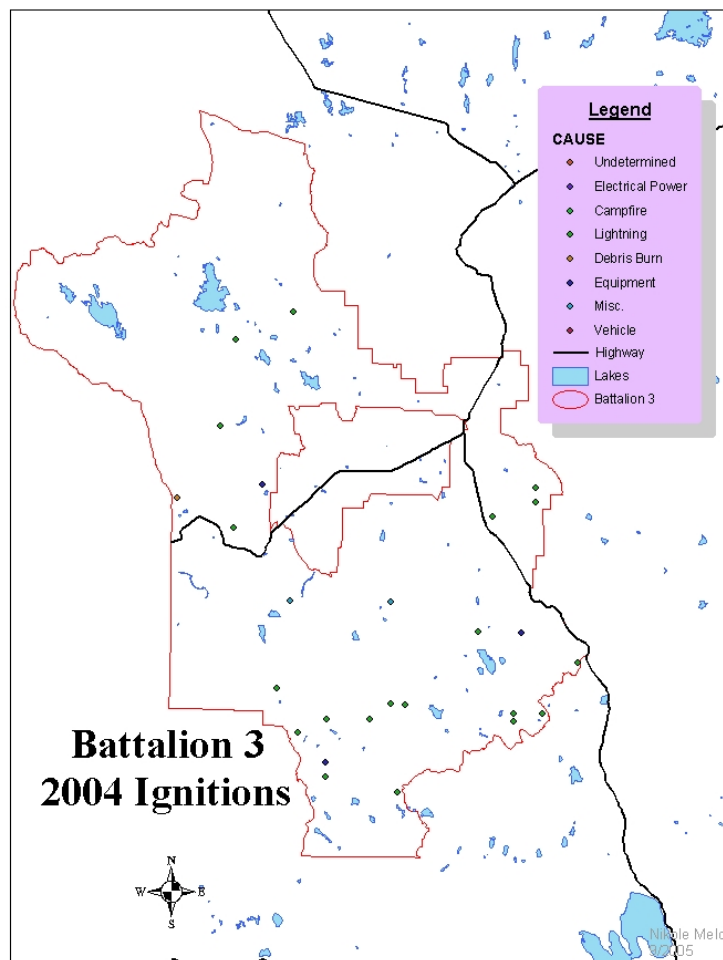
FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

Big Valley Fire Protection District
Lookout Volunteer Fire Department
Adin Volunteer Fire Department
McArthur Volunteer Fire Department (Day Bench)
Little Valley Community Services District
Newall Fire Protection District

Ignitions

During 2004, Battalion 3 had a total of 34 ignitions, which resulted in fires. The leading cause of these fires was lightning for a total of 21 fires. The following is a break down of the ignitions within the Battalion:



FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005**Lassen – Modoc Unit**

LIGHTNING	21
DEBRIS BURN	5
EQUIPMENT	1
ELECTRIC POWER	1
CAMPFIRE	1
UNDETERMINED	4

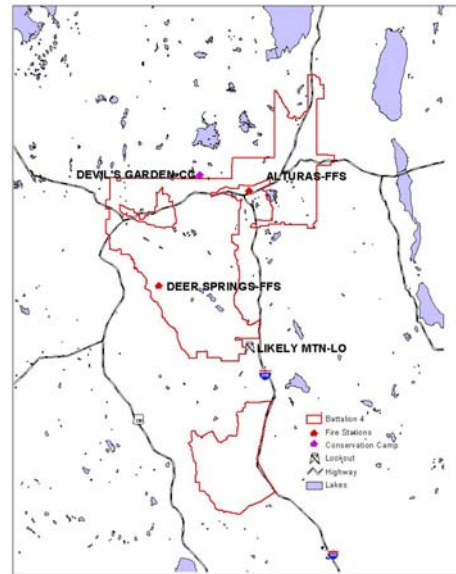
FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

Lassen – Modoc Unit

BATTALION 4

Battalion 4(Alturas Battalion) is located in the northeastern portion of the Lassen – Modoc Unit. It is located on the east half of Modoc County with Oregon to the north and Nevada to the east. The most southern end of the Battalion is within the northeastern part of Lassen County. The communities of Alturas, Canby, Likely, and Madeline are located within its boundaries.

U. S. Highways 395, 299 and 139 travels through the Battalion. Approximately 21,500 acres of this Battalion are State Responsibility Lands; Local Responsibility Land surrounds the community of Alturas and runs south to Likely. Approximately 1800 people live within the boundaries of Battalion 4.



Fuels

The vegetative cover in the Battalion is predominately standing timber in the mountains, with juniper grass/sage cover in the eastern half of the battalion where the terrain is at a lower elevation. Many fires in this Battalion grow quite quickly due to the remoteness of the area and lack of roads.

Fire Weather

Fire weather in Battalion 4 is drier, being in the rain shadow, than that of Battalion 2 and 3, which are located to the west and near the top of the Sierra/Cascade mountain range. During 2004, Alturas received 11.22 inches of rain and an average of 12.45 inches.

Battalion 4 Resources

Alturas Station

2- Fire Engines
Likely Mountain. Lookout

Deer Springs Station

1 – Fire Engine

Devils Garden Conservation Camp is located to the west of Alturas just outside of town and has 5 Fire Crews, one Dozer and one Camp Fire Protection Engine.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005

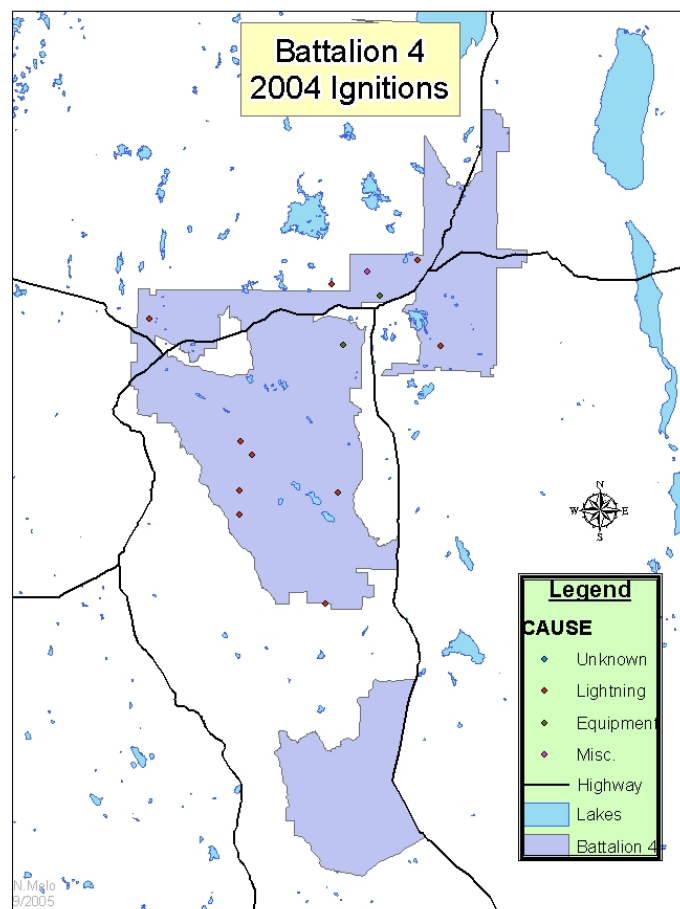
Lassen – Modoc Unit

Fire Protection Districts and Volunteer Departments include:

Alturas City Fire Department
Alturas Rural Fire Protection District
Cal Pines Community Service District
Canby Fire Protection District
Cedarville Fire Protection District
Davis Creek Fire Protection District
Eagleville Fire Protection District
Fort Bidwell Fire Protection District
Lake City Fire Protection District
Likely Fire Protection District
Madeline Fire Protection District

Ignitions

In 2004, Battalion 4 had a total of 22 ignitions, which resulted in a fire. The leading cause of these fires was lightning for a total of 12 fires. The following is a break down of the ignitions within the Battalion:



FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2005
Lassen – Modoc Unit

UNDETERMINED	1
LIGHTNING	12
EQUIPMENT	1
DEBRIS BURNING	6
PLAYING WITH FIRE	1
CAMPFIRE	1